

CITATION

**RHUNAHAORINE POINT
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**
Argyll and Bute

Site code: 1349

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NR 695493

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 62
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 357

AREA: 326.32 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Coastlands: Shingle

Biological: Birds: Greenland white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*), non-breeding

Biological: Birds: Little tern (*Sternula albifrons*), breeding

DESCRIPTION

Rhunahaorine Point Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is situated on the west coast of Kintyre approximately 24.3 km south-west of Tarbert and just north of Tayinloan. The site is notified for its natural features of coastal shingle, overwintering Greenland white-fronted geese *Anser albifrons flavirostris* and breeding little tern *Sternula albifrons*.

The Rhunahaorine foreland consists of shingle ridges laid down in two distinct sequences, the younger with ridges roughly north-west to south-east, the older ridges south-west to north-east and some 3 m higher than those at the point. The vegetation on site consists of a mosaic of habitats which includes dry heath and wetland. The areas of vegetated shingle are important examples of a habitat type which is becoming increasingly rare in Great Britain.

The site is of international importance as a roosting and feeding area for large numbers of wintering geese particularly Greenland white-fronted geese (3.81% of the world population and over 6% of the British population).

The little tern colony is the largest in Kintyre, with between approximately 9 and 25 pairs present in the four years 2006-2009.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1971

Re-notified under the 1981 Act: 23 August 1985 with a 1.61 ha net decrease in area.

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 4 February 2011

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 325.78 ha)

Part of Rhunahaorine Point SSSI is also part of the Kintyre Goose Roosts Special Protection Area (SPA), which is designated for Greenland white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*), non-breeding.